

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01
/073 R

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-----190019Z 126961 /61

O 182300Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO DA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
CDR DARCOM ALEX VA
CDR MICOM RSA AL
CDR ARCOM ROCK ISLAND ILL
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, KU

SUBJECT: FMS EQUIPMENT FOR M113A1 VEHICLES

REFS: A) SECDEF 3395 DTG 272306Z JAN 77; B) SECDEF 5815
DTG 080059Z FEB 77; C) KUWAIT 1059 (NOTAL)

1. AS REF A POINTED OUT, DOD CAN MAKE 35 50 CAL. MACHINE-
GUNS AVAILABLE IN TIME TO COINCIDE WITH FIRST DELIVERY OF
25 APCs FROM FMC. WE HAVE LOOKED CLOSELY INTO
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POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL 50 CAL. GUNS AS
REQUESTED BUT HAVE FOUND THAT THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE. THESE
WEAPONS HAVE NOT BEEN IN PRODUCTION FOR SOME TIME AND
ALTHOUGH A NEW LINE IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN FALL 1977,
RETOOLING AND FILLING BACK ORDERS WILL MEAN AN APPROXIMATE
30-MONTH WAIT FOR ORDERS PLACED NOW. AS WE SEE IT, ONLY
OTHER OPTION FOR PROCURING FROM THE U.S. IS A SUBSTITUTE

MACHINEGUN UNTIL THE 50 CAL. BECOMES AVAILABLE. IN THIS REGARD THE FMC WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE HAS INDICATED THE M60 7.62 MM MACHINEGUN COULD BE OBTAINED COMMERCIALY BY FMC, SUBJECT TO THE MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE. FMC INFORMS US THAT IF GOK PLACES ORDER FOR M60 MACHINEGUNS IMMEDIATELY, THERE IS EXCELLENT CHANCE 25 WEAPONS COULD BE DELIVERED WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS WITH THE BALANCE BY SEPTEMBER 1977.

2. SIMILARLY WE HAVE LOOKED INTO THE AVAILABILITY OF 81MM MORTARS. BECAUSE OF LIMITED PRODUCTION CAPABILITY, THEY CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LESS THAN 27 MONTHS.

3. AS TO THE TOW LAUNCHER, BECAUSE OF CURRENT ARMS REVIEW, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO GIVE A DEFINITE RESPONSE RE NEW SALES. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, FOR THE GOK TO USE THEIR EXISTING ASSETS. TO DO THIS A TOW MOUNTING KIT IS NECESSARY AND IS AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY FROM EMERSON OR THROUGH FMS IN APPROXIMATELY 21 MONTHS.

4. WE REALIZE THAT ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT BE WHOLLY SATISFACTORY FROM GOK POINT OF VIEW. IN PRESENTING THEM, HOWEVER, YOU MAY WISH TO STRESS TIMELY DELIVERY OF THE MAJOR END ITEM, THE APCS. WE REGRET INABILITY TO SUPPLY ALL ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT IN TIME REQUESTED, BUT WE HOPE GOK WILL UNDERSTAND THAT DEPARTMENT, DOD AND FMC HAVE MADE EXHAUSTIVE EFFORTS TO BE FORTHCOMING ON THESE ITEMS.

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